

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CCO-00 EB-08 NSCE-00
SP-02 L-03 INR-10 INRE-00 HA-05 SSO-00 /066 R

DRAFTED BY S/S:JETHYDEN:WES

APPROVED BY /S:J HYDEN

EUR:WHLUERS

-----034540 231811Z /42

O 231743Z APR 78 ZFF6

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 103890 TOSEC 040220

USDEL SECRETARY FOR SHULMAN

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:EAIR, UR,KS

SUBJECT:KOREAN/SOVIET AIR INCIDENT

1. ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
LUERS CALLED SOVIET EMBASSY SATURDAY EVENING, APRIL 22,
TO REGISTER OUR CONCERN OVER THE DETENTION OF THE KAL
PILOT AND NAVIGATOR. AS CHARGE' VASEV WAS UNAVAILABLE,
LUERS SPOKE WITH MINISTER-COUNSELOR BESSMERTNYKH.

2. LUERS EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE DETENTION AND
STATED THAT WHILE WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE AIRLINER
STRAYED INTO SOVIET AIRSPACE, WE COULD NOT IMAGINE
CRIMINAL INTENT. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ANY INVESTIGATION
AND THE RELEASE OF THE KOREAN CAPTAIN AND NAVIGATOR WOULD
BE EXPEDITIOUS. BESSMERTNYKH CLAIMED THAT HE HAD NO
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NEWS OF DEVELOPMENTS AND POINTEDLY ASKED THE NATIONALITY OF
THE PILOTS. LUERS RESPONDED THAT SOUTH KOREA, WHICH HAS
NO RELATIONS WITH USSR, HAD ASKED US TO ACT AS INTERMEDI-
ARY. THE CONVERSATION ENDED WITH BESSMERTNYKH AGREEING TO
REPORT THIS EXPRESSION OF OUR CONCERN TO THE FOREIGN
MINISTRY IN MOSCOW.

3. SOVIET EMBASSY CULTURAL COUNSELOR V. SAKOVICH
INFORMED THE DEPT LATER IN THE EVENING THAT CHARGE'
VASEV HAD TRANSMITTED OUR CONCERNS TO MOSCOW. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTION, TOSEC, AIRCRAFT PILOTS, AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS, AIR COMBAT OPERATIONS, MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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